

Preliminary Amendment  
PCT/EP2004/003762  
Filed: October 11, 2005  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q90798

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A discharge tube comprising:

- an insulator tube (2, 52) ~~having~~ with an inner face (3, 53) and an outer face (4, 54),
- an inner electrode (10, 60) which ~~consists of a flexible laminar material and which~~ is in contact with the inner face (3, 53),
- an outer electrode (9, 59) which is in contact with the outer face (4, 54),
- a ~~spring~~ contact element (11, 61) ~~comprising at least one piece of metal wire~~ <sup>(70)</sup> which, at least along the greatest part of the length of the ~~inner~~outer electrode (10, 60/59), is in electrical contact therewith ~~and loads same towards the inner face (3, 53)~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A discharge tube according to claim 1, characterised in that wherein the ~~metal~~ wire ~~contact~~ element, along the entire length of the ~~inner~~outer electrode (10), is in electrical contact therewith ~~and loads same against the inner face (3)~~.

Preliminary Amendment  
PCT/EP2004/003762  
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Claim 3 (currently amended): A discharge tube according to ~~any one of claims~~  
claim 1 or 2,  
~~characterised in~~  
~~that wherein the spring contact element (70) is provided in connected to the form of outer~~  
~~electrode (60) in a helical spring (11) material-locking way.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): A discharge tube according to claim 3,  
~~wherein that, in the untensioned, unmouted condition, the outer diameter of the helical~~  
~~spring (11) is greater than the inner diameter of the inner electrode (10) mounted in 9), at a radial~~  
~~distance from the insulator tube (2), forms a guiding element in which the contact element (70) is~~  
received.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A discharge tube according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,  
~~characterised in~~  
~~that there wherein the guiding element is provided in the form of a channel and the~~  
~~contact element (70) which, at least along in the greatest part of the length form of the outer~~  
~~electrode (59), is in electrical a wire, wherein the contact therewith element is inserted into the~~  
guiding element.

Preliminary Amendment  
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Claims 6-18: Cancelled.

Claim 19 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the inner electrode is produced from a flexible laminar material, and there is provided a spring element with at least one metal wire which, along at least part of the length of the inner electrode, is in contact therewith and loads same against the inner face.

Claim 20 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 19, wherein the spring element is provided in the form of a helical spring, wherein the outer diameter of the helical spring, in the untensioned, non-mounted condition is greater than the inner diameter of the inner electrode mounted in the insulator tube.

Claim 21 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the outer electrode is produced from a radially expandable woven wire fabric or braided wire fabric in the shape of a hose.

Claim 22 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein the insulator tube is produced from glass, more particularly from lime soda glass or borosilicate glass.

Preliminary Amendment  
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Claim 23 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 1, wherein that the insulator tube, at a first longitudinal end, comprises a base which is produced so as to be integral with the insulator tube, and that the insulator tube, at a second longitudinal end comprises an aperture.

Claim 24 (new): A discharge tube according to claim 23, wherein the insulator tube, along part of its length, is designed so as to be tapered towards the aperture.